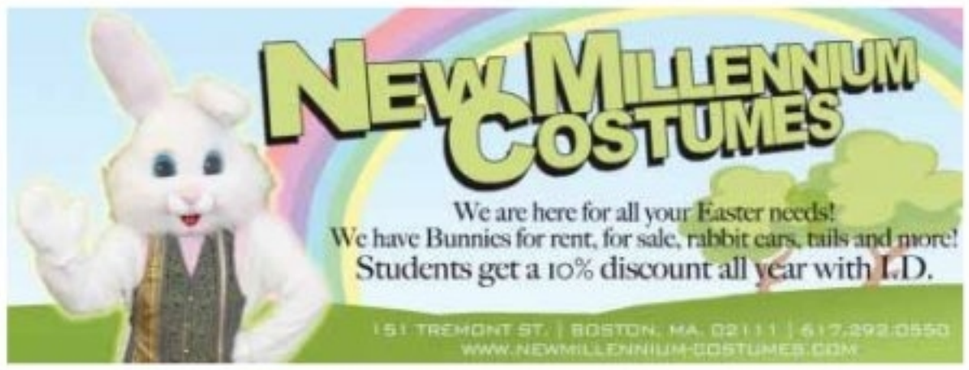
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NO MORE WIIG ON 'SATURDAY NIGHT'? THE WORD {page 08}

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Thursday, April 5, 2012

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Sox. Opener

▶ Jon Lester will get the nod today as the Sox open their 2012 slate in Detroit (1 p.m., NESN).

Red Sox eager to ditch 2011 memories

Bobby Valentine, Josh Beckett, Kevin Youkilis and Co. will be under the microscope from now until October. Metro takes a look at what the Sox lineup should look like and predicts a few baseball bombshells that could but likely won't occur in 2012. {page 16}

Now what? Board passes fare hike but T still in debt

Legislature to decide on $60M MBTA allocation to avoid an even steeper increase Either way, T will likely be debt-ridden again next year {page 02}

Metropolitik

Obama's long arm gets grabby

Supreme Court's strip search decision was urged by Obama administration Feds reaching for more of our rights {page 06}

This is quite the 'Scandal' {page 10}

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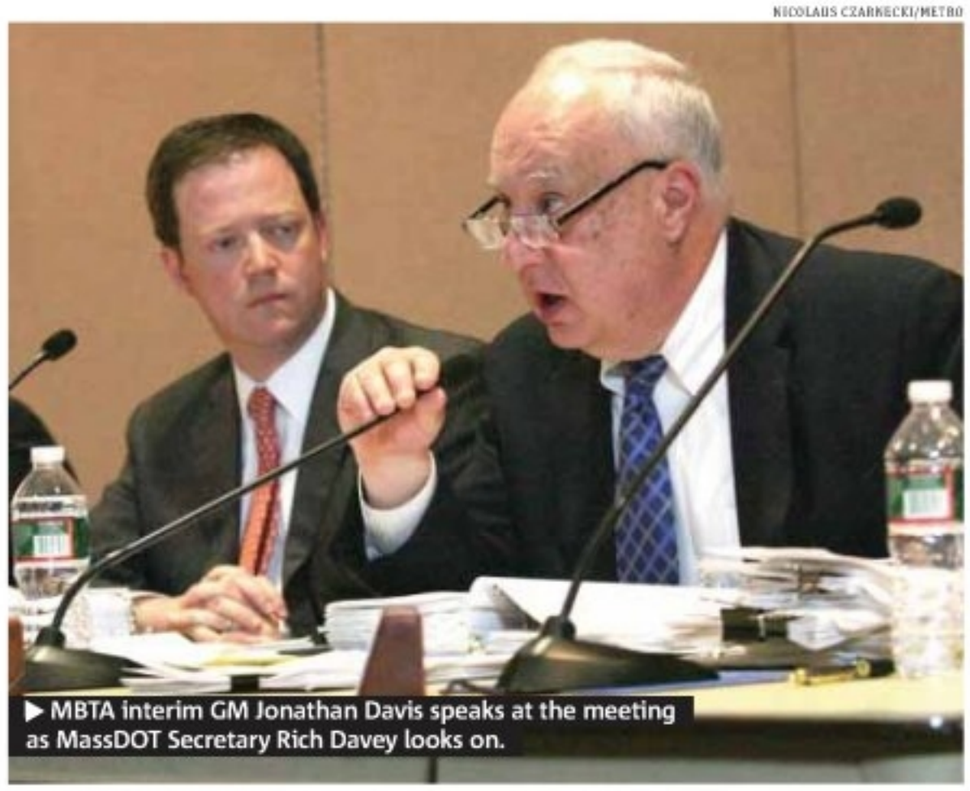
Riders must dig deep as MBTA fare hike passes

- MBTA fares will go up 23 percent, raise cost for seniors and students
- Hike takes effect on July 1
- Meeting draws massive crowd, protests

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ T rider like Wil Cespedes, joined by his granddaughter Tanajah, spoke at the meeting.



▶ MBTA interim GM Jonathan Davis speaks at the meeting as MassDOT Secretary Rich Davey looks on.

For the first time in more than five years, MBTA riders will have to dig deeper into their pockets and pay higher fares to ride public transit.

After more than an hour of pleas, chants and demands yesterday, the MassDOT Board of Directors voted to raise the cost to take the T by an average of 23 percent, while cutting services to some buses and weekend Commuter Rail routes.

Officials passed the measure 4-1, sparking uproar from enraged riders in a packed hearing room at the State Transportation building.

"It's unconscionable," said Lee Matsueda, director of the T Riders Union. "It's not just a social issue, it's a moral issue. It's not just about dollars and cents, it's about peoples' lives."

The fare increase and service cuts, which will help close the MBTA's massive budget gap, go into effect July 1.

Ferdinand Alvaro Jr., the lone MassDOT board member who voted against the fare hike, called the proposal "a disgrace." "I cannot in good conscience support a budget that covers the gap and burdens the most vulnerable in our population," he said.

Top T officials warned the committee that the proposal is a one-time solution, and riders will face more cuts and fare hikes next year if the state doesn't step in with a long-term transportation solution.

"I don't think any of us are happy with this," said board member Andrew Whittle.

Following the vote, riders rallied, booing and chanting "shame on you." Riders said they weren't surprised by the outcome, however.

"It's a failure of leadership and it's a failure in our system," said Khalida Smalls, with tears forming in her eyes. "The only reason this system exists is because all of these people here. And they were ignored."

"The only reason this system exists is because all of these people here. And they were ignored."
KHALIDA SMALLS

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Metro question

We asked for T riders' reaction to the fare increases:

Lucas Griffith, 19
"I'm not happy about it … It's a pain for them to raise fares, but if it's the only way they can keep the MBTA running, it makes sense."

Allie Giffes, 19
"As someone in college on a budget, it's frustrating. It doesn't seem like a lot at first but it definitely adds up. People will be upset. I'll probably start walking more."

Bryan Koulouris, 32
"Ordinary people shouldn't have to pay for big businesses … I'm going to have to make decisions now about which bills I pay and how far I get into debt."

One more vote

While a major hurdle was passed Wednesday to close the T's budget gap, service reductions and fare increases aren't enough.

- To close the rest of the deficit, T officials are relying on more than $60 million from the state's motor vehicle inspection trust fund, snow and ice surplus and leasing the North Station Garage.
- Gov. Deval Patrick filed legislation last week to use those surplus funds to close the T's fiscal 2013 budget, however, the reform needs approval from the state's Joint Transportation Committee, which is scheduled to hold a hearing on the legislation next week.
- If the Legislature does not approve the proposal, T officials will be forced to go back to the drawing board to find additional ways to close the gap. METRO/SA

In the news

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The Museum of Fine Arts has allowed more than 230 works from its collection to be shared and viewed online as part of the Google Art Project. Officials said works from the Boston museum will now be shared with audiences around the world. Selections include The Blue Boat by Winslow Homer and Paul Revere's Sons of Liberty Bowl. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Wish the next couple hours would go by. All I wanna do is @Hubway around in this weather!"

@SHANLALEE, SPEAKING FOR MOST DESK JOCKEYS WHO WANTED TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE RIDING A BIKE IN YESTERDAY'S NICE WEATHER

▶ The scene last week

Cops: Lynn man hit trooper

BOSTON. A 40-year-old Lynn man was charged with being the driver of a car that hit and injured a state police trooper last week along the Neponset Street Bridge.

Robert Paul is at Massachusetts General Hospital with a gunshot wound to his leg believed to be inflicted when troopers shot at his car after he allegedly hit Trooper Scott Flaherty.

Another man was arrested last week in connection with the incident. METRO

Mayor honors Wakefield man

EAST BOSTON. A Wakefield resident was hailed by Mayor Thomas Menino yesterday as a "brave citizen" and was given a proclamation.

Paul Antonino entered a burning building on Chelsea Street on Sunday and warned residents about a fire there. The fire grew to seven alarms and sent multiple firefighters to the hospital.

Menino declared yesterday "Paul Antonino Day" in Boston. METRO

Protesters to occupy the Hill

BOSTON. Protesters upset about T fare increases are camping out on the State House steps.

In direct response to Wednesday's approval of the fare hike, members of Occupy the MBTA, an offshoot of Occupy Boston, announced they will be sleeping at Beacon Hill, launching "Camp Charlie," a mini-occupation. The camp will serve as a platform for debate, conversation, and outreach. METRO

Arguments begin in DOMA appeal

Both sides confident in Defense of Marriage Act arguments Couples say act has cost them thousands

Beatrice Hernandez and Melba Abreu have been together 25 years and have been married for the last eight.

They married in Cambridge shortly after the state legalized same-sex marriages.

Despite being married, the couple can't jointly file tax returns and they said it has cost them tens of thousands of dollars over the years.

The couple are some of the people who have contested the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman and denies spousal benefits to same-sex couples.

Hernandez and Abreu were on hand in federal court yesterday as lawyers argued over DOMA before a panel of three U.S. Court of Appeals judges for the First Circuit.

A section of the act was ruled unconstitutional by the district court in 2010. The federal government appealed that ruling and it is being defended by lawyers for the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group to the U.S. House of Representatives after the Obama administration said it would no longer defend the act in court.

▶ Coakley

"What it's doing is wrong," said Hernandez. "When you're married for life, you're married for all of the stages of your life."

At issue are federal benefits like Social Security payments or tax breaks, which under the act are not available to same-sex married couples, but are for straight couples.

"There is no problem that is being solved by DOMA," said Mary Bonauto, the civil rights project director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. "It is simply that Congress does not want to deal with same-sex couples."

Attorney General Martha Coakley's office also spoke against the ruling and said it infringes on states' rights to define marriage. She said she was confident after yesterday's arguments.

Supporters of the act said they, too, felt confident after hearing the arguments.

"We feel very good about the case," said Kris Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute.

The ruling by the appeals judges could take months.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Youth. Anti-Defamation League

▶ Nipmuc Regional High School juniors, Deanna Valcour, left, and Chenoa Tracy Stone draw a tree made up of ways to bring unity to their community.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

ADL event focuses on bullying

More than 1,200 high school students from Massachusetts and Vermont met at the Park Plaza Hotel yesterday to address bullying and cyberbullying. The New England Youth Congress, hosted by the Anti-Defamation League, lets students to participate in peer-led workshops. METRO

Tim Cahill pleads not guilty

BOSTON. Former state Treasurer Tim Cahill asserted his innocence yesterday, pleading not guilty in Suffolk Superior Court to charges leveled by Attorney General Martha Coakley that the former Quincy politician illegally used $1.5 million in public funds from the lottery on an ad campaign designed to bolster his 2010 campaign for governor.

"Today is the beginning of a long process that will result, in the end, in my name being cleared and my reputation being restored," Cahill said after his arraignment. "No one did anything wrong."

Cahill's former campaign manager, Scott Campbell, and the former Lottery chief of staff, Alfred J. Grazioso Jr., who are also charged in the case, also pleaded not guilty. The three men were released on personal recognizance.

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2	2BR	$959	50%

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2	23,500	39,150	46,980
3	26,450	44,050	52,860
4	29,350	48,900	58,680
5	31,700	52,850	63,420
6	34,050	56,750	68,100

Households Interested in applying should attend one of the two informational sessions being provided. Informational sessions will be held at the following locations:

Thursday, April 5, 2012, 6pm-8pm: United South End Settlement House, 566 Columbus Ave, Boston 02115 • Thursday, April 26, 2012, 6pm-8pm, Erie Ellington Community Room, 31 Erie St, Dorchester, MA 02122

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Alleged plotter of 9/11 set for trial at Gitmo

Accused Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four suspected co-conspirators were ordered yesterday to stand trial before a Guantanamo war crimes tribunal on terrorism, murder and other charges in a case that could carry the death penalty, the Pentagon said.

GETTY IMAGES

The official overseeing the Guantanamo tribunals, retired Vice Adm. Bruce MacDonald, referred the case to a capital military tribunal on charges of terrorism, hijacking aircraft, conspiracy, murder in violation of the law of war, attacking civilians and other counts, the Pentagon said.

Mohammed and the other four are accused of conspiring with al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and other members of the group.

The decision to move to trial in a military court follows years of political and legal wrangling over whether terrorism suspects like Mohammed and his alleged co-conspirators should be tried in civilian courts as criminals or before military courts as enemy combatants. **REUTERS**

Tornadoes. Aftermath

▶ Michael Denicola, left, and Elizabeth Mogilnicki dig through the rubble of Mogilnicki's mother's home yesterday after a tornado rocked Forney, Texas, on Tuesday.

GETTY IMAGES

Cleanup is under way in Texas

Thousands of residents were without power and hundreds of flights were canceled yesterday as authorities surveyed the damage a day after up to a dozen tornadoes struck the densely populated Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas.

News in brief

Behind primary sweep, Romney oh-so-close to Republican nomination

MILWAUKEE. Mitt Romney made a big leap toward winning the Republican nomination with a clean sweep of three primaries yesterday that handed a stinging defeat to chief rival Rick Santorum.

The victories in Wisconsin, Maryland and Washington, D.C., will increase appeals from Republican party leaders for Santorum to quit so that Romney can gird for a difficult fight against President Barack Obama.

In his victory speech in Milwaukee, Romney ignored Santorum and gave voters a sense of what the general election campaign will be like, sharply criticizing Obama for his handling of the U.S. economy and high gasoline prices. **REUTERS**

Obama signs insider trading bill, wants more curbs on congress

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama called yesterday for stricter controls on

lawmakers to confront "the corrosive influence" of money in Washington as he signed into law an insider trading ban he said was needed to help restore trust in the U.S. government.

President Barack Obama said the STOCK Act he signed at the White House made plain that members of Congress using nonpublic information to improve their personal investment portfolios were breaking the law. **REUTERS**

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A funny thing happened this week while the left and right were busy trading barbs over the president's handling of the Obamacare case at the Supreme Court. Though perhaps funny isn't really the best way to describe it. We don't know, what do you think? Is it funny that the Obama Department of Justice fought for, and won, the legal right for prison officials to strip-search anyone arrested for even the most minor offenses?

The answer to that question probably depends on whether you're the one doing the searching — or the spreading.

You'd heard about the instantly infamous strip-search ruling, had you? We'll bet you didn't realize that President Obama was at least partially to blame for it, though. The conservative court voted 5-4 along ideological lines in the decision, but the government has the power to sway that ruling. And in this case, it urged it.

The New York Times, in its article on the topic Monday, didn't waste a single word on this minor detail. (Though they did say this: "The procedures endorsed by the majority are forbidden by statute in at least 10 states and are at odds with the policies of federal authorities." Could that be interpreted to suggest that the Obama DOJ actually opposed rather than supported the issue? We think so.) The Daily Show similarly dropped that ball Tuesday night, aiming fair cynicism at both the president and his rivals over the judicial review flap — Obama suggested the court would be out of bounds in overturning a Congressionally approved law; it wouldn't be — and even touching on the strip-search decision, but completely failing to mention the fact that the Obama administration lobbied for it!

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ President Obama has received a surprising amount of policy support from the majority conservative Supreme Court.

Many people were understandably dismayed by this invasive ruling. With some 13 million people arrested in the U.S. each year, that's a whole lot of unnecessary embarrassment for such hardened criminals as dog-leash law violators, minor drug offenders and peaceful protesters. (And we're sure it's not necessary to point out that minorities will be the overwhelming victims of this new federal overreach.)

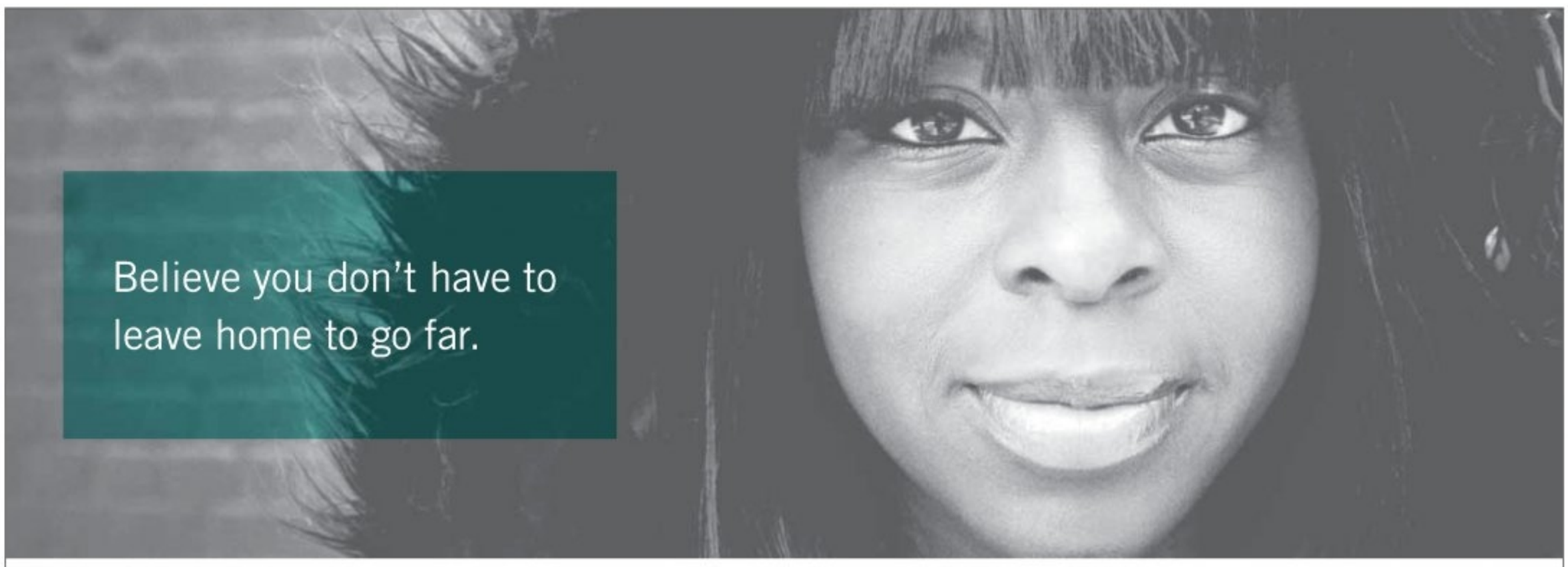
So there was some outrage, sure. But it didn't come close to approaching that surrounding Obama's poorly thought out comments on the court. Conservatives have spent the past couple weeks arguing that the president's health care law represents a gross governmental tyranny in that it forces a small number of people to buy into a health insurance system that they'll most likely be entering at one point or another anyway. Considering their feelings on big government, surely they'd be upset over this new interpretation of the law? But no: The right-wing mind set would nearly always trade individual liberty in the name of preventing the most unlikely of risks. (Previously, courts had ruled that prison officials must have a reasonable suspicion that a detainee might be harboring contraband.)

And Democrats? Mum.

It bears repeating: The two-party system is terribly destructive for both sides of the aisle. As civil rights lawyer Stephen Bergstein points out: "This position would probably be identical to that advanced by a Republican presidential administration." If you listen to the right, our president is the most radical leftist ever born. As we've been saying for some time, that's simply, unfortunately, not true.

The my-side blindness that leads to lefties ignoring failures of leadership under Democrats, and conservatives to disregard Republican transgressions, means we get the worst of both ideologies regardless of who's in charge. Under the Obama presidency, we've seen that with a continuation and even reinvigoration of Bush/Cheney-era rollbacks in civil liberties.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.



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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Key 'SNL' players moving on?

Two sources have told Us Weekly that several of the best, more recognizable "Saturday Night Live" players are ready to move on. "**Kristen Wiig**, **Andy Samberg** and **Jason Sudeikis** are all leaving after the end of the season," says one insider. "It will be a huge blow to the show. Without Andy's video shorts and Kristen saving every skit, they'll need help!"

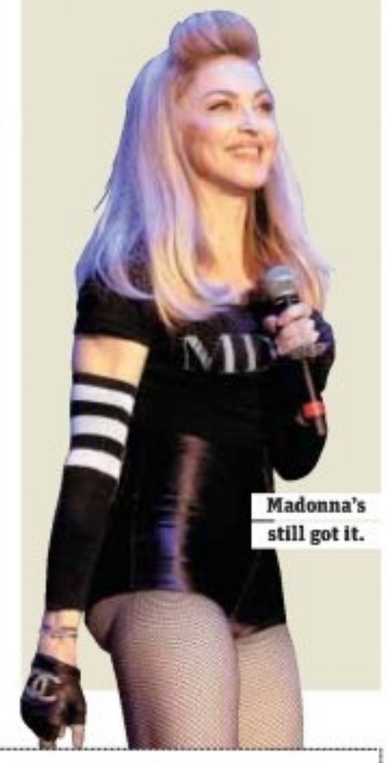
A rep for both Wiig, 38, and Sudeikis, 36, deny the rumor, telling Us, "No decisions are made until the season is over." But another "pal" of Wiig's says the timing is right: "Kristen was talking about leaving a while ago. With her movie success, it's no surprise."

It's time, but it's too bad — they (and the occasional crazy guest host, a la **Lindsay Lohan**) made the show worth watching this season. Although now that we think about it, that's a pretty sad highlight reel.

▶ Wiig, Sudeikis and Samberg may no longer have "Saturday Night" plans.

Madonna back on top

She's still got it: **Madonna**'s new album, "MDNA," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 and it also enjoyed the biggest first week sales of the year. The album moved over 359,000 copies in its first seven days, more than the debut numbers for any album in 2012, according to Neilsen/SoundScan. These stats made "MDNA" Madonna's fifth No. 1 studio CD in a row.



Madonna's still got it.

More Vanderpump!

Lisa Vanderpump is the one "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star who doesn't need a reality TV paycheck — yet she's the one cast member who is getting a spin-off.

▶ Vanderpump

"Bravo has confirmed Lisa's own show," an insider tells Life & Style. "It's going to be about her restaurant Sur Lounge and feature the staff and happenings there."

"A key character in the show is going to be **Scheana Marie**, the woman who hooked up with **John Mayer** and **Eddie Cibrian** and works at Lisa's restaurant," a second source tells Life & Style.

Don't worry: Vanderpump will also still be a prime time player on the show that made her famous. "Yes, she's also returning for Season 3 of 'Housewives,'" the insider says. "She'll be juggling both."

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Ricky Gervais has a bone to pick about religion, Garry Shandling is trying to keep up with trends, Craig Ferguson is sleeping funny and Seth MacFarlane is revisiting history.

@rickygervais
Saying "Atheism is a belief system", is like saying "not going skiing, is a hobby."

@GarryShandling
OK, so I misunderstood what planking was at first. Big deal.

@CraigyFerg
Ugh, I feel like Burt Reynolds - woke up covered in hair. My giant German Shepherd slept on top of my bed last night. So did my dog.

@SethMacFarlane
"I'M STANDING ON THE FRONT OF A BOAT!" -- Titanic (first draft)

MacFarlane

Talking points

Timberlake's summer wedding?

Justin Timberlake and **Jessica Biel** are reportedly looking to tie the knot as soon as this summer, according to People magazine. "Justin and Jessica are planning a big [summer] wedding," a source says. "Jessica initially wanted a smaller, more intimate wedding, but Justin from the beginning wanted a big wedding and that's what they have decided on." He also apparently wants to be in fantastic shape for the big day: "Justin has put on a few pounds recently after working out a lot for a movie role, but now with the summer in sight he's back in the gym and working out harder than ever," the source adds. 'He's seen the effort Jessica puts [into staying] fit and looking healthy and he doesn't want to go the other way. She's inspired him to get fit again."

No royal heir on the way ... yet

Despite near-constant rumors of a baby on the way, **Prince William** and **Kate Middleton** are definitely not making any big announcements soon, a source assures Us Weekly. "Kate is not pregnant or about to make a pregnancy announcement," the source says. There are plenty of other reasons for the royal couple to celebrate, though, as their first anniversary is coming up at the end of this month and William just completed a six-week deployment in Argentina.

Hemsworth on wedding rumors: 'I'm young!'

Liam Hemsworth must have heard the rumors about he and **Miley Cyrus** being engaged, because he's making it clear that it's far too early for anything like that. "Marriage and kids are way in the future for me," Hemsworth tells OK! Magazine. "I'm young. It's not really on my mind at the moment — marriage, kids or anything." But he is happy to be in a serious relationship with Cyrus since it can be so hard to trust people in Hollywood: "I like to surround myself with good people and good moral values," he says. "It's hard sometimes to work out in this town what people want from you."

▶ Hemsworth

Mars not out of the closet

Reports of **Bruno Mars'** coming out of the closet as gay are apparently phony, his rep insists to Hollyscoop. "Someone pulled a prank and the world has run with it," the singer's rep says. "The Internet is really powerful." A viewer-submitted CNN story had reported that Mars had told a Chicago radio station that he's homosexual. "The timing is bad. I hadn't realized it was April Fools' Day, but it's been pointed out to me, and I don't want to go too public with this," Mars supposedly said. His rep insists the whole thing was "completely fabricated."

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That time Tatum was grinding with Elton John ...

1. Ashton Kutcher, Jeffrey Katzenberg and **Jack Black** attended a basketball game between the New Jersey Nets and the Los Angeles Lakers at the Staples Center on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

2. New wax figures of **Prince William, Duke of Cambridge** and **Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge** were revealed at Madame Tussauds on Wednesday in London.

3. Channing Tatum and **Sir Elton John** got up close and personal during the 2012 Concert for the Rainforest Fund at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, in New York City.

4. Tori Spelling promoted her new book "CelebraTori" at Bookends Bookstore on Tuesday in Ridgewood, N.J.

5. Nicki Minaj visited Elvis Duran & The Morning Show at Z100 Studio on Wednesday in New York City.

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TV watch list

'God is the Bigger Elvis'

DOCUMENTARY. Elvis co-star Dolores Hart abruptly turned her back on Hollywood to become a nun in 1963. This Oscar-nominated documentary short looks at her life as the Mother Prioress of the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn. 8 p.m., HBO

'The Big Bang Theory'

COMEDY. Just one week after Leonard Nimoy guest-starred, "The Big Bang Theory" pulls another space-related coup with tonight's cameo by famed theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. 8 p.m., CBS

CBS

▶ Stephen Hawking guest stars on "Big Bang Theory."

'Grey's Anatomy'

DRAMA. A lion is on the loose in Seattle? Yawn. After that whole bomb-in-a-guy's-belly escapade a few seasons ago, an outrageous storyline is simply par for the course. 9 p.m., ABC

AMBER RAY

There's some truth behind this 'Scandal'

The new ABC drama starring Kerry Washington is based on the work of real-life 'fixer' Judy Smith

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Crisis manager Judy Smith is the inspiration behind "Scandal." The show premieres tonight at 10 p.m. on ABC.

Crisis management pro Olivia Pope is the textbook Shonda Rhimes heroine: smart, driven and a complete mess in her personal life. Exchange the power suit for scrubs, and Olivia would fit in perfectly in either of Rhimes' other shows, "Grey's Anatomy" or "Private Practice." Strong but flawed is what the writer does best, though she had a little help conceptualizing her protagonist for the new ABC drama "Scandal" — Olivia is based on real-life crisis manager Judy Smith, the founder of a high-powered strategic and crisis communications firm who also served as an assistant U.S. attorney and president George H.W. Bush's deputy press secretary.

"The world that I live in is very high-stakes. It's very fast-paced," Smith says matter-of-factly. "And what [Shonda and her team has] done is a terrific job at dramatizing that in a very unique setting."

The setting is Washington, D.C., "the nexus of power for so many different industries and so many different fields," says actress Kerry Washington, who plays Olivia with equal fierceness and vulnerability. The locale allows the show to delve into behind-the-scenes political machinations, but not necessarily linger there.

"From show to show, who walks in our office is completely unpredictable — whether it's somebody in the military, whether it's a politician, whether it's somebody in the corporate world, whether it's somebody in the labor movement, whether it's a celebrity, whether it's a sports figure," says Washington. "So [D.C.] is an exciting context for the show, but it's not a political show because we deal with crisis in all areas, as does Judy."

"The world that I live in is very high-stakes. It's very fast-paced. And what [Shonda and her team has] done is a terrific job at dramatizing that in a very unique setting." JUDY SMITH

So, naturally, when Rhimes is met with her own crisis when trying to write a script, Smith is the first person she turns to. "I would call her up and say, 'A madam's been arrested, and she's got a client list. What would you do?'" says Rhimes. "And then Judy tells us how you solve the problem. And that's been a fascinating and amazing resource for us."

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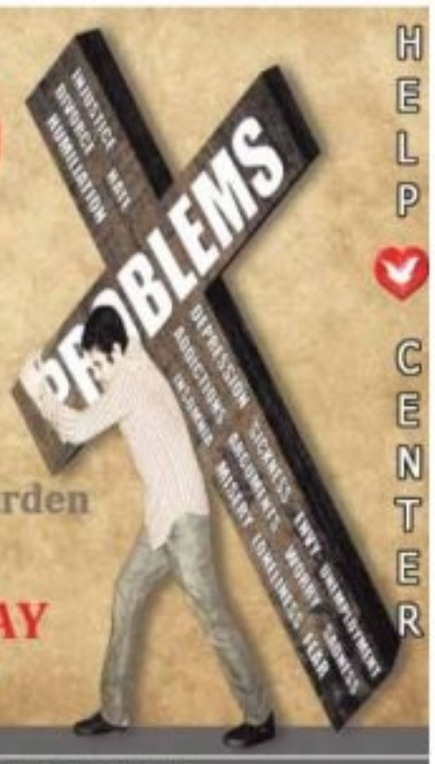

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Letters

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Hey Metropolitik, what about Obama?

RE: "OBAMA THE CAMPAIGNER": Metropolitik just devoted an entire column to criticizing the budget proposed by the Republicans. Fair enough. But Metropolitik is strangely silent on Obama's 2012 budget, which the House voted to reject last week by a vote of 414-0. Yes, that's right: 414-0. In a rare display of bipartisanship with the Republicans, not a single Democrat voted for Obama's budget! Perhaps Metropolitik should devote some ink to explaining the deficiencies in Obama's budget.
RON SHELTON, VIA E-MAIL

Brayden Simms now accuses readers who criticize his political stance as being confused. I didn't know that calling him an "Obama shill" was an insult to him since he has only good things to say about Obama! Nothing that Obama does is wrong in his columns. On the other hand, anything that the Republicans do is wrong and bad. What would you call that? Also, anyone who disagrees with him is a right-wing extremist. He doesn't mention anything that Obama does bad; I guess threatening the Supreme Court is fine. So definitely I say his writing is one-sided and he is a shill for Obama.
IGOR MANNIKUS, VIA E-MAIL

"The ... healing benefits of prayers said in faith can't be disputed."

RE: "ON A WISH AND A PRAYER: UNHEALTHY": So when this guy gets the news that he's ill and may die, I guess he'll just shrug his shoulders and die. Me? I'm gonna pray. The mind is unique and transformative, no doubt, and wishing blessings and good to oneself and others does indeed have a positive effect. And I do take full, unabashed ownership of this fact. The psychological and physiological healing benefits of prayers said in faith can't be disputed. There are thousands of years of proof that it works. Maybe you oughta research the facts. You could pray about it.
RICHARD ROACH, VIA E-MAIL

I have bad news for Steve Ahern: There is no valid study indicating that prayer has no value in helping those who are ill with many different medical and psychological problems. What studies have said is sometimes it appears to be useful and sometimes it appears not to be useful. A lot depends on which study you read. No scientific research has arrived at a definitive view, which is understandable since prayer is not really a legitimate area of study for scientists.
ADELAIDE VERPONI, VIA E-MAIL

On Passover eve: Let those people go

Israel needs to let the Palestinians go. Passover and Easter are a perfect time to make good decisions to bring world peace while we bask in relative comfort in the West. Yes, let us settle the Holy Land issue. Then rich American Jews will stop throwing money at politicians in the USA. We will have a different kind of democracy in the USA where politicians dont need to be multimillionaires to represent us. If our money that divides and rules is stopped, I bet Middle East oil money will stop feeding their side, too.
SHIRLEY KOSHI, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** It behooves you to subdue your assertiveness when it comes to a partnership arrangement. There are certain things that your counterpart will be better at doing, and you need to accept that.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** As long as you stick to working with tested methods and procedures, this can be a productive day for you. Experimenting with the unknown could set your entire operation back.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Lady Luck is only likely to help you when you stay on familiar turf. It behooves you to forego inclinations to gamble on persons or things about which you know little.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Only after you have successfully dealt with family matters should you switch your focus to some of your other interests. Concerns of the home should be given top priority.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You might have to make a choice regarding numerous circumstances that need attending. Some are positive, some could be counterproductive, but all are intermingled.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Before taking on anything new, you need to clean up any old, neglected jobs that you've left unattended. Only then will you be free to give all your attention to a new project.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If your mate has to make a choice in an area where he or she used poor judgment in the past, don't let history repeat itself. Step in and offer some suggestions if you can.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Before taking on any new duties, finish what you have already started. If you attempt to do everything all at once, it will merely lead to lots of frustration and little productivity.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It is extremely important to treat all of your friends with equal courtesy and respect. If you play favorites or show partiality, you are likely to lose out.

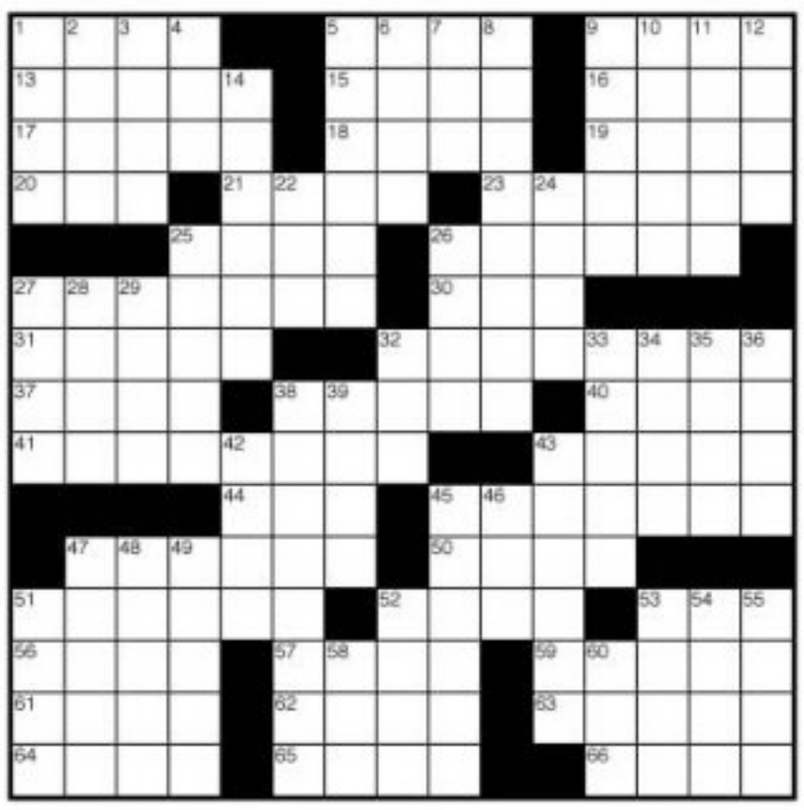
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Ambitions having to do with material gains have good chances of being fulfilled. However, you might not score equally well on your social interests.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It behooves you to be a better listener than a talker. While you're telling others what you know, someone might be trying to tell you something you don't know.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Getting involved in a joint endeavor could be quite iffy, especially if you are once again teaming up with someone who was part of a failed deal in the past. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Foot warmer
5 Box-office hit, slangily
9 Geisha's zither
13 Crowd in
15 Sewing kit
16 Garment for a sheik
17 Condor nest
18 Fellini-inspired musical
19 Early movie dog
20 Strut along
21 Fixes the fight
23 Quite possible
25 Verdi heroine
26 Recommend
27 Uproar
30 Vitamin monitor
31 In front
32 Magnificence
37 Layer of paint
38 "Crazylegs" Hirsch
40 Ploy
41 Action flick
43 Put on the late show
44 Stadium cheer
45 Rich
47 Burn slightly
50 D.A. backup
51 Soft fabric
52 Escape hatch
53 San Francisco hill
56 __ fixe
57 Canning tomato
59 Powerful adhesive
61 Culture dish goo
62 Leatherneck org.
63 English Channel port
64 Mardi Gras follower
65 Pyramid builder
66 Vacuum attachment

Down
1 Wild guess
2 Nabisco cookie
3 Firm, for short
4 Pond carp
5 __ tiger
6 Elevator name
7 Lots of laughs
8 Enjoyable time (2 wds.)
9 Drab color
10 Camel stops
11 Deed
12 Thumbs-up
14 Era
22 Deposed Amin
24 "Terrible" tsar
25 Fine violin
26 Big hairdo
27 Ambassador's forte
28 Oops! (hyph.)
29 Raise, as kids
32 Menacing sound
33 Lived
34 Blarney Stone site
35 __ Bator
36 Monthly expense
38 Silver-gold alloy
39 Rachel's sister
42 Ancient harp
43 Oxidized
45 City near Monte Alban
46 Frat letter
47 Swamp grass
48 Just washed
49 Plain to see
51 Perfume bottle
52 Tube trophy
53 Exploding star
54 Draft animals
55 Polar explorer
58 Mama bear, in Madrid
60 Captured soldier



1						7	6	
	4				6		9	3
	2				7			
			7	1	5	9		
4	7			8			2	5
		9	4	3	2			
			3				1	
9	6		2				3	
	1	5						7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

3			2		6		8	
						7		
		8	5		4	3	1	
6					9	8	5	
		5				2		
	9	2	7					4
	2	1	8		5	4		
		3						
	4		1		2			3

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

P	L	A	N	B		A	R	C	H		X	E	N	A
S	A	M	O	A		N	E	R	O		R	Y	E	S
A	S	O	U	L		S	L	O	P		A	R	E	A
T	H	I	N	K	T	W	I	C	E		T	E	R	N
				A	V	E	C		F	E	E			
S	E	M	I	N	A	R		C	U	D	D	L	E	D
A	M	A	S	S			K	I	L	O		I	R	A
H	A	R	T		M	A	I	D	S		W	O	O	F
I	I	I		D	I	N	T			C	O	N	D	O
B	L	A	T	A	N	T		L	O	O	K	S	E	E
			O	B	I		P	E	L	E				
P	A	S	S		B	E	A	V	E	R	D	A	M	S
E	L	I	S		I	D	L	E		C	O	T	T	A
C	A	G	E		K	E	E	L		E	V	E	N	S
S	E	N	D		E	N	D	S		D	E	N	S	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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food&drink

Ready to Terre into the spring

Back Bay chef is patiently waiting for change of season and change of menu Carubia set to host a 'Journey' He just doesn't know what he'll serve yet

COURTESY OF SEL DE LA TERRE

There will be many more people in Sel de la Terre on May 2!

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN
LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

It's spring in New England, which means it's obviously still chilly. Hunkering down at Sel de la Terre Back Bay's low-lit bar in the corner of the airy, but comfy, dining room with a cognac-laced sidecar and rich, beef-flecked arancini provides a warming pause.

It's warm and sunny sitting by Sel's window overlooking Boylston Street, chomping down a plate of organic chicken surrounded by orange, amber, asparagus and green tender root vegetables, sipping a citrusy, ferny Three Brooms sauvignon blanc.

Chef Franco Carubia

Chef Franco Carubia patiently awaits new spring produce for Sel de la Terre's menu, which is built around local availability. A plate of cheerful-looking golden beets laced with a little sea salt and vinegar has lots of creamy burrata, and his roast cod with lightly curried cippolini onions and the fresh bite of braised fennel is surrounded by a velvety pureed celery and apple espuma. On the sweet side, a rum-soaked savarin (a yeasty cake named for a father of gastronomy) is topped with banana ice cream and paired with zingy mango, lime and mint. Spring allows for the best of both worlds: new bright flavors and crisper textures tempered by comforting, softer winter ones.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

The Chef's Whim

Every third Wednesday, Sel de la Terre Back Bay, which is the third of this French-influenced local mini-chain (there are the original Long Wharf and Natick Mall locations too), offers a changing five-course Chef's Whim Wednesday dinner (7 p.m., $65). On May 2, Chef Carubia hosts "A Journey Through Spring" — and though the menu won't be chosen until he knows what's available, he says he's looking forward to Vermont spring lamb and seasonal faves like peas, rhubarb, duck eggs and edible flowers.

If you go

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films

10 Reasons to head to the movies this week

Must-see

HOPPER STONE

▶ Stifler (Seann William Scott) and Jim (Jason Biggs) are back for a fourth helping of "Pie."

1 'American Reunion' Seann William Scott, Alyson Hannigan and all those other actors who didn't have quite as much post-"Pie" success return for another installment about this group of friends who find plenty of ways to sexually humiliate each other.

2 'Titanic 3-D' For the 100th anniversary of the Titanic — and for the sake of funding future ocean-floor explorations, maybe — James Cameron releases a 3-D adaptation of his 1997 film.

3 'Wrath of the Titans' Sam Worthington and Liam Neeson get all mythological on you again in this sequel to "Clash of the Titans."

4 'Mirror Mirror' Tarsem Singh puts his surrealistic spin on the Snow White legend.

5 'The Hunger Games' Potter and the sparkly vamps had their time. Now, a post-apocalyptic teenage huntress takes center stage as a volunteer in her county's annual Hunger Games, in which two teens from every district must fight to the death as an act of gratitude towards the rulers of their country, Panem.

6 '21 Jump Street' Based on the '80s TV series, this one stars Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum as two less-than-slick police officers who go undercover in an attempt to bust a high school drug ring.

7 'Jeff, Who Lives at Home' By now, you'd think we'd be sick of seeing Jason Segel play a shorts-wearing manchild who lives in his mom's basement. And yet, we're not at all.

8 'John Carter' Taylor Kitsch plays a Civil War vet who can't catch a break: He ends up on Mars, gets taken prisoner by giants and then should probably go back and save the princess after he finally escapes.

9 'A Thousand Words' Eddie Murphy angers a spiritual guru, inciting a curse that gives him only 1,000 words to speak before he dies.

10 'Silent House' This haunted house horror flick tells the story of a father and daughter renovating an old cottage — until the weird noise coming from the top floor becomes the priority.

HEIDI PATALANO

TAG
theater & arts guide

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hot tickets

- UK band are a stadium draw at home, but remain a cult hit here
- Bassist talks about playing 'garish music' and keeping their underground approach
- Even though he thinks America will really love his band's latest album

The Horrors of being mislabeled

Banned in Boston?

The Horrors certainly made their mark in Boston, as Webb tells the story of a 2009 show at Great Scott in Allston: "We played in this venue, a weird spot that had two statues of Elvis looking over the room. Faris [Badwan, singer] smashed this mascot and they told us that we couldn't come back to Boston. We have since."

When referring to The Horrors, don't use words like "post-punk" or "revival." Rhys Webb, bassist for the U.K. band, emphasizes that they're trying to make music with the original spirit of punk. But even that term might hold limitations.

"As far as we're concerned, we just want to make music for the future," says Webb. "We want to make music that people haven't heard before."

Their third album, "Skying," which hit No. 5 on the U.K. charts last year, embodies the punk aesthetic and musically runs the gamut from psychedelia to no-wave.

"We've just wanted to make it trashy. We wanted to play garish music like [the original] punks saw," says Webb.

Starting in the midst of a scene typified by Joy Division- and Gang Of Four-inspired post-punk, The Horrors strove to make their own footprint.

"Our own connection is that we had nothing to do with it," says Webb of the London scene, "but we were part of it because we didn't like what we were hearing. The whole thing has been a constant organic progression."

Since their beginnings in the underground, The Horrors have become a household name in their homeland, developing their sound and playing elite festivals in the U.K.

"But, we don't make pop music for other people to enjoy it," insists Webb. "Our approach is not different than other bands playing to 50 fans once a month: Basically we try and do the things that make us an underground band."

▶ Webb, second from right, says his band certainly created a horror show at Great Scott a few years ago.

NEIL KRUG

If you go

The Horrors
with Small Black
Wednesday, April 11
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$15-$17, 18+, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
letters@metro.us

Buy 'this bloody record'!

While the band has grown in popularity regardless of their attitude, they haven't changed their priorities.

"We're not a band thinking that we're big; it's never really something that we enter in our mind," says Webb.

Their approach keeps them humble: While opening for Florence and the Machine and playing stadiums in the U.K., they still play modest rock clubs in the U.S.

"The great thing about this band is that the people that come out and see us really love us," he muses, before declaring, "I think that more people in America should pick up on this bloody record."

Tickets

▶ Jason Aldean

On sale now

▶ Refused
with OFF!
July 20
House of Blues

On sale soon

▶ The Cult
June 5
House of Blues
(On sale Saturday)

▶ The Temper Trap
June 7
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ Santigold
June 22
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ Umphrey's McGee/G. Love & Special Sauce
June 30
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Friday)

▶ Jason Aldean
My Kinda Party tour with Luke Bryan, Rachel Farley, DJ Silver
July 14
Comcast Center
(On sale Friday)

▶ Vans Warped Tour 2012
July 19
Comcast Center
(On sale Friday)

Also onstage

The Magnetic Fields

Friday and Saturday
Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Ave., Boston
$33, 617-747-2261
www.berkleebpc.com

Not so much a band as an ongoing vehicle for the prolific talents of singer-songwriter Stephin Merritt, the Magnetic Fields are a prime example of the indie ideal of making whatever kind of music you want. Sure, Fields have gone through several distinct phases, but they always move on, shifting like a cuttlefish into whatever shape Merritt requires next.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Stephin Merritt has very sensitive ears.

The War on Drugs

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Middle East Downstairs
480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$15, 18+, 617-864-3278
www.mideastclub.com

This Philadelphia band comes off like Springsteen on acid, with the earnest, populist folk-rock voice and vibe of the Boss getting all strange and elastic in a bath of psychedelic haze that shifts the focus from everyday life to the inner world, as if to say, yeah, there's a lot of stuff worth protesting, but you'd better occupy yourself first.

MATTHEW DINARO

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PAUL BASIC

FRI. 4/6
NADA SURF
AN HORSE

SAT. 4/7
AER
GROUND UP, GUY HARRISON, K.I.T.

SUN. 4/8
IN ASSOCIATION WITH TOGETHER BOSTON
RJD2
FRESH PRODUCE (DJ'S TOMMEE AND KNIFE)

TUE. 4/10
THE PRETTY RECKLESS
THE HOLLYWOOD KILLS, THE BLACKBOARD NAILS

WED. 4/11
WFNX PRESENTS:
THE HORRORS
SMALL BLACK

THU. 4/12
CONSPIRATOR
FT. MARC BROWNSTEIN & ARON MANGER (THE DISCO BISCUITS), CHRIS MICHETTI (RAQ), AND KJ SAWKA ON DRUMS WITH JEFF BUJAK, LEAVE IT ON STAGE

SAT. 4/14
WHITE RABBITS
GULL

TUE. 4/17
LAMBCHOP
MEG BAIRD

WED. 4/18
TRAMPLED BY TURTLES
THESE UNITED STATES

THU. 4/19
LUCERO
J RODDY WALSTON AND THE BUSINESS

TUE. 4/24
WE WERE PROMISED JETPACKS
BRETON, FORT LEAN

WED. 4/25
WFNX NIGHTLY NEWS PRESENTS:
THE DRUMS
CRAFT SPELLS, PART TIME

THU. 4/26
GOOD OLD WAR
THE BELLE BRIGADE, FAMILY OF THE YEAR

FRI. 4/27
KINA GRANNIS
IMAGINARY FRIEND

SAT. 4/28
FUTURE ISLANDS
ED SCHRADER'S MUSIC BEAT, SKIMASK

TUE. 5/1
ERIC HUTCHINSON
GRAFFITI6

FRI. 5/4
RUBBLEBUCKET
DELICATE STEVE, RYAN POWER

WED. 5/9
SPIRITUALIZED

THU. 5/10
STAR SLINGER / THE HOOD INTERNET
CHRISSY MURDERBOT

FRI. 5/11
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NEON INDIAN
LEMONADE

SAT. 5/12
THE FEELIES
DJ CARBO

SUN. 5/13
MARK LANEGAN BAND
SEAN WHEELER, ZANDER SCHLOSS

FRI. 5/18
THE ADICTS & WORLD/INFERNO FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

SAT. 5/19
THE WOOD BROTHERS

TUE. 5/22
THE POLYPHONIC SPREE

WED. 5/30
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SAT. 4/7
WFNX BOSTON ACCENTS PRESENTS
GENTLEMEN HALL WITH **FREEZEPOP**
ART DECADE, DOORBELLS

MON. 4/9
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GOLDEN BLOOM, MICHAEL J. EPSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ORANJULY

THU. 4/12
WHITE DENIM
HUNDRED VISIONS, BRAZOS

FRI. 4/13
BAREFOOT TRUTH
SAM JAMES

SAT. 4/14
THE CRIBS
THE STATIC JACKS, THE HOUNDS BELOW

SUN. 4/15
BAREFOOT TRUTH
SPIRIT FAMILY REUNION, CAHILL

MON. 4/16
THE JEZABELS
BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH, IMAGINE DRAGONS

TUE. 4/17
LOCAL H
TOWNSHIP

WED. 4/18
AMY RAY
(OF THE INDIGO GIRLS) WITH KAIA WILSON

THU. 4/19
SAM SPARRO
SHEA ROSE

FRI. 4/20
J.D. MCPHERSON
LUCIUS

SAT. 4/21
GREEN RIVER ORDINANCE
GRAHAM COLTON

TUE. 4/24
JON BENJAMIN HAS A TOUR

WED. 4/25
WFNX NIGHTLY NEWS PRESENTS
THE BIG PINK
STEREO TELESCOPE

THU. 4/26
THE BOXER REBELLION
CANON BLUE

FRI. 4/27
HANNI EL KHATIB
SUNDELLES

SAT. 4/28
WU LYF
WILLIS EARL BEAL

SUN. 4/29
TYRONE WELLS
JOE BROOKS

TUE. 5/1
WFNX PRESENTS
ELECTRIC GUEST

WED. 5/2
THE SHILLS
CD RELEASE WITH ART DECADE, YOU CAN BE A WESLEY, THE DIRTY DISHES

THU. 5/3
BEAR IN HEAVEN
BLOUSE, DOLDRUMS

FRI. 5/4
SCHOOL OF SEVEN BELLS
EXITMUSIC

SAT. 5/5
HORSE FEATHERS / BROWN BIRD

WED. 5/9
ANE BRUN
GEMMA RAY

THU. 5/10
ALO
CHRIS KASPER

FRI. 5/11
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SAT. 5/12
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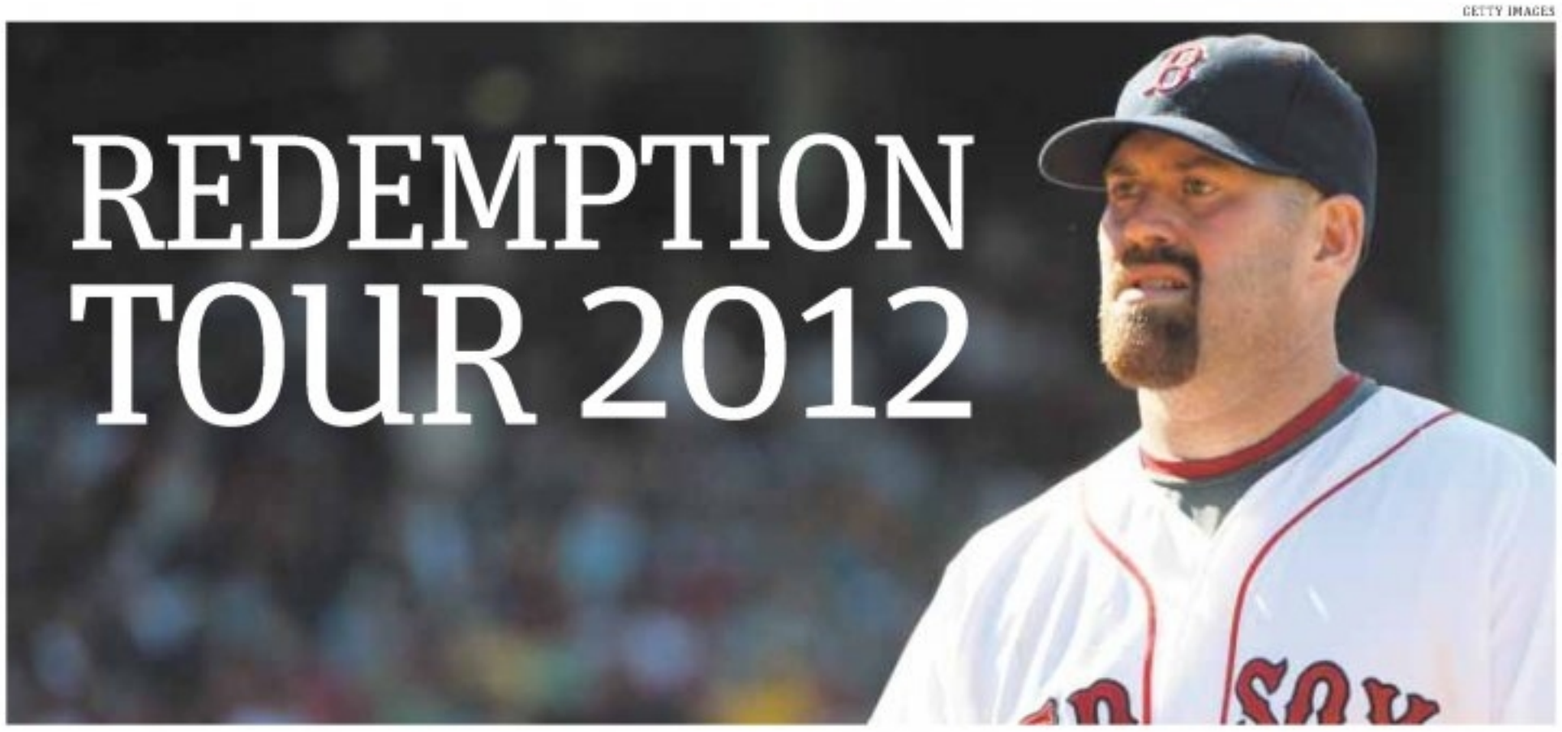
3

A quick start will be vital to this team's ultimate fate in 2012 ◗ Pressure on Beckett, Youkilis, Lester, Buchholz to prove September collapse was a fluke ◗ Will all the change pay off for Sox?

REDEMPTION TOUR 2012

GETTY IMAGES



In short sample sizes, the Red Sox of the past two decades have shown remarkable resiliency.

They were down 0-2 in 1999 and '03, down 0-3 in 2004, down 1-3 in 2007, and almost again in '08.

But those comebacks were all performed in October. The one facing the 2012 Red Sox will require six months to complete.

When last we saw them on the field on that wild Wednesday night in Baltimore, the Red Sox completed the worst September collapse in baseball history. The shockwaves reverberated for months, with tales of clubhouse malfeasance, the sacking of the manager and abdication of the GM.

And if history is a guide, those were the best of times.

Everyone remembers the 1978 Red Sox, the 1964 Phillies and the 1996 Angels. No one remembers, '79, '65, '97. Those three postcollapse teams dropped between 6 to 16 games off the pace of the year before and were noncontenders.

And in 2012, even with the addition of a second wild-card spot, the Red Sox are faced with a similar scenario, especially in a hypercompetitive AL, where the Yankees, Rays, Rangers, Angels and Tigers all pose formidable obstacles to returning to the postseason for the first time since 2009.

Quoted

"I have great expectations for this group. We expect to make the playoffs."

RED SOX MANAGER BOBBY VALENTINE

But don't tell that to Bobby Valentine, who suddenly, after a decade out of the dugout, found himself manager of the postapocalyptic Red Sox.

"Motivation is all self-motivation," said Valentine. "That stuff doesn't come from the manager, it doesn't come from the press, it doesn't come from the fans. The individuals are motivated by needs and desires."

How motivated are these Red Sox? How motivated are Josh Beckett and Jon Lester to put the chicken and beer saga behind them? How motivated is Carl Crawford, once his wrist is fully healed, to overcome the worst season of his professional career? How motivated is Adrian Gonzalez to shake a self-inflicted reputation for a laissez-faire approach to big games?

And motivation aside, how will Daniel Bard fare as a starter, especially after being questioned by his outspoken manager? How effective, and for how long, can Mike Aviles be as the starting shortstop, with Jose Iglesias on standby?

So many questions. So much time.

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

Projected lineup

1. **Jacoby Ellsbury, CF —** If Bobby V. shuffles him around in the lineup, will he be as effective?
2. **Dustin Pedroia, 2B —** One of the few who manned up last September. Has scored 100 runs in three of his five MLB seasons.
3. **Adrian Gonzalez, 1B —** A triple crown candidate if EVERYTHING goes right in his second year in Boston.
4. **Kevin Youkilis, 3B —** Will he ever drive in 100-plus RBI again like he did in 2008?
5. **David Ortiz, DH —** Has finished nearly every season with the Sox with around 30 homers and 100 RBI. When will it end? It's anyone's guess.
6. **Cody Ross, LF —** Ross had a strong spring training after a letdown year in 2011 with the Giants.
7. **Jarrod Saltalamacchia, C —** It's a make or break year for 'Salty' with Ryan Lavarnway waiting in the wings.
8. **Ryan Sweeney, RF —** Valentine is comfortable with Sweeney and Ross playing any outfield position.
9. **Mike Aviles, SS —** Bobby V. could move him into the leadoff spot quickly if he's good with the bat early on.

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2012 Red Sox preview

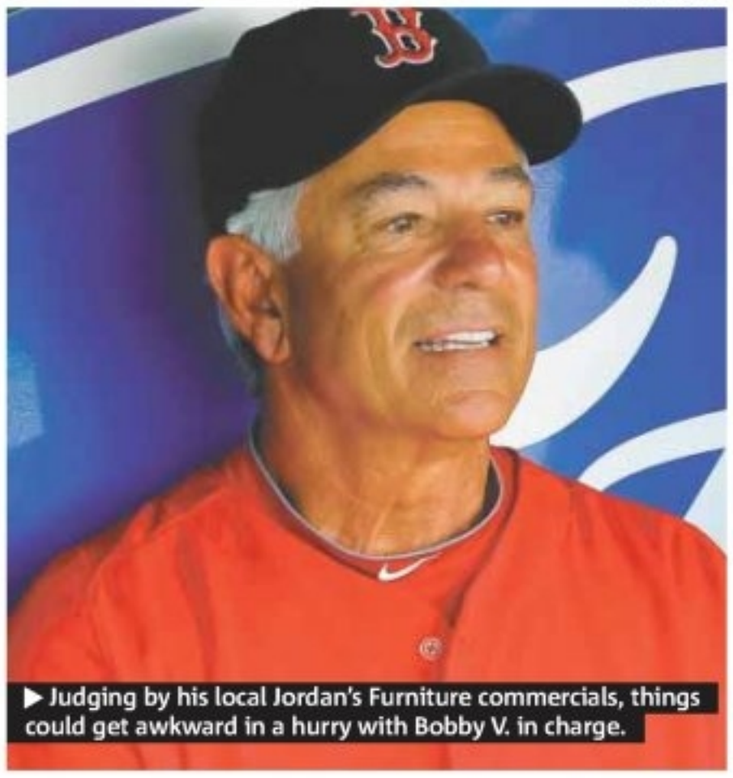
PREDICTIONS SURE TO GO WRONG

Look on the bright side, Sox fans. Things couldn't possibly go worse than they went in 2011. A few 2012 predictions for the Old Towne Team that will likely not come true:

Jenny Dell, NESN's sideline replacement for Heidi Watney, begins dating Jacoby Ellsbury in July. In turn, Ellsbury goes into a month long slump. Dell and Ellsbury break up on Aug. 20, and the Sox center fielder goes on a monthlong tear to end the season and push the Sox into the second wild-card slot. Dell is replaced by Jen Royle.

Closer by committee. Alfredo Aceves goes through April in impressive fashion, saving five games with a 2.14 ERA. He tanks in May. Mark Melancon takes over in June and is thoroughly unimpressive as Sox fans panic in the streets and yearn for the days of Papelbon. Andrew Bailey returns in July and is steady the rest of the way ... though Sox fans never truly trust him.

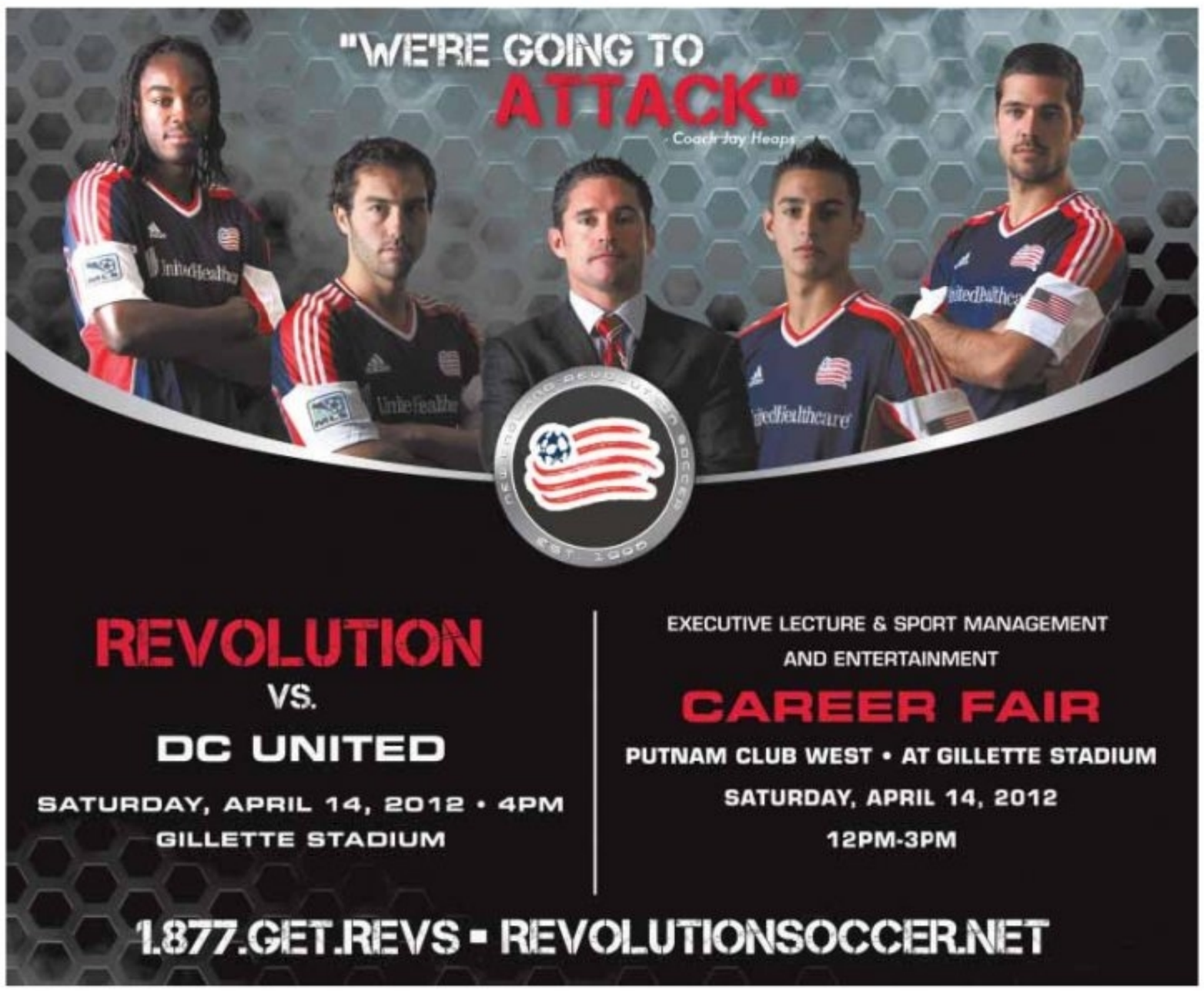
GETTY IMAGES



▶ Judging by his local Jordan's Furniture commercials, things could get awkward in a hurry with Bobby V. in charge.

Bobby Valentine gets into a fistfight with the ponytail guy from Jordan's Furniture after it is learned that their commercials are too awkward for TV. What, you're telling me that's happened already? Oh, and no one hits the ball on the sign in center.

Against the Orioles, the Red Sox go 18-0 as they single-handedly get Buck Showalter fired. Sox and O's fans rejoice together. ● MATT BURKE



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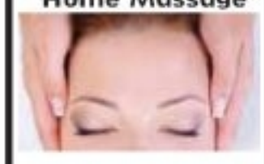
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